

**Environment and Human Health, Inc.
1191 Ridge Road
North Haven, Connecticut 06473**

**Testimony of
Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

Bill No. 84

AN ACT CONCERNING OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACES

Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Richard Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Nancy Alderman and I am the President of Environment and Human Health, Inc., a non-profit organization comprised of ten members who are physicians and public health professionals in North Haven, CT.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is in strong support of Bill No. 84

Why is this Bill important?

Families who live near outdoor wood furnaces tell us that they cannot let their children outside to play in the good weather months if a neighbor's outdoor wood furnace (OWF) is burning - because the wood smoke emissions fill their yards with smoke.

As well, families report that their houses fill up with wood smoke -- and in the heat -- air conditioners do not block the wood smoke from entering their homes. In the heat of the summer - outdoor wood furnace burning only increases the wood smoke's irritating effects.

If you breathe wood smoke all day, 7 days a week, even if the cleanest driest wood is used, it will cause a person harm. In the short term it will cause symptoms of red eyes, sore throat, headaches, bronchitis, pneumonia, and for some, asthma. In the long term it can cause permanent damage to lungs -- and because the components of wood smoke are carcinogenic - it can lead to lung cancer. Exposure to wood smoke from an OWF can increase adverse respiratory and cardiovascular symptoms.

Due to the excessive amount of smoke that an OWF produces, and its harmful effects on the environment and human health, outdoor wood furnaces are not allowed to be sold in the States of Oregon and Washington. As well, 17 towns in Connecticut have banned outdoor wood furnaces. Those towns are: Granby, Tolland, Hebron, Woodbridge, South Windsor, Portland, Norfolk, Ridgefield, Haddam, Cheshire, West Hartford, Hamden, North Haven, New Fairfield, Rocky Hill, Avon and Simsbury.

It is critical that the CT Legislature NEVER ALLOW preemption of the town's rights to ban outdoor wood furnaces, even as the state chooses not to do that. Towns must be able to preserve the right to protect their citizens and their citizen's property values from outdoor wood furnaces and continue to be able to ban them.

We would suggest that if the state wants to move ahead on burning wood - it promote the use of EPA certified wood stoves - these are a safer way to heat with wood - and much safer than using outdoor wood furnaces. Outdoor wood furnaces are so problematic that the EPA has never certified them.

Some will argue that they need to heat their hot water in the warmer months.

There has to be some level of compromise in order to protect Connecticut's environment and the public's health. There are other ways to heat hot water other than using this very polluting method. Those other methods should be used.

While some are saving money by using outdoor wood furnaces - others are losing the entire value of their homes - as they cannot sell them due to the excessive smoke that surrounds them.

Smokers once claimed the state should not tell them what and where they could smoke - and bar and restaurant owners said they would lose business if their customers could not smoke. Yet the state decided that it had a responsibility to protect its citizens from breathing other people's tobacco smoke. Outdoor wood furnace smoke has many of the exact same components as tobacco smoke - and the people in the homes near outdoor wood furnaces cannot escape breathing in the wood smoke 7 days a week - 24 hours each and every day.

We believe the state has an obligation to protect its citizens. This Bill that will restrict the use of OWFs in

the warmer months is certainly a step in the right direction.

We hope you will support this important legislation.

Thank you,
Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
February 22, 2012

The pictures below are of a phase II outdoor wood furnace that were sent to Environment and Human Health, Inc. They speak for themselves.

From the sender of the pictures:

My neighbor's Phase II OWB/OWF was unbelievable this morning - see the photos below. I thought you may consider sending out these photos to remind people how EPA's program has completely failed to reduce emissions from OWFs.

Photos of Phase II OWB It smoked at this rate for over two hours - 12/20/11.





The CT DEEP outdoor wood furnace complaint map below and goes thru February 16, 2012



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